



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

## **Newsletter (14) – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### **Teams Trials Wednesday 21st October and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Following our introduction to Teams today, teachers will be trialling some Teams sessions over the next two days. Although we had converted Thursday into an INSET day, we would like students to participate in these sessions as they will get good practice at using Teams. To access a Teams lesson, students will receive a link in their emails. They can click on this link and this will take them to their Teams session. We have attached more detailed instructions for those who would like more information on how to use Teams.

### **Other lessons on Wednesday**

On Wednesday morning, students should check their emails first thing in the morning to see which lessons are going to be delivered via Teams. Where a lesson is not going to be by Teams, work will be uploaded to Insight before the start of the lesson for the student to complete during the hour of that lesson. Their teachers will be available via e-mail for that hour to answer any questions the student has about their work. Can I reinforce that all lessons on Wednesday are compulsory for all students. Students should complete the work and then bring it in to school to show their teacher after the holiday.

### **Learning after half term**

After we have completed these two days of more extensive trials of Teams, we will then be in a position next term to offer live remote access to lessons for any student who must self-isolate. This will mean that no student will have to miss any lesson because they are not able to be in school as they must self-isolate. We obviously hope that all students will be in school, but this sadly not going to be likely. However, it is our intention after our training this week that any student who has to self-isolate after half term will be able to join in with the live lesson going on in school. We hope you will agree that this is a major step forward and the best way to manage the uncertainty of who is in school each day.

To help prepare for this learning, we have been carrying out a large-scale student survey to find out about whether families have access to the IT facilities required to access live lessons via Teams. We have had 828 responses so far so have a very good idea of where gaps may be. Could you ask their child if they have completed the 'Remote learning in cases of self-isolation' survey in the last two weeks, please? If they have not, please ask them to complete this asap. The link is at the bottom of this e-mail. We are following up with any students who say they do not know their e-mail log on, or they do not have an electronic device to use in order to ensure no student misses out.

We appreciate your support again in helping students continue their learning during this difficult period. We hope this move to live learning will significantly reduce the pressure on parents in helping with home learning. Could you please go through the attached behaviour and safeguarding protocols with your child to help them to access remote lessons. We will expect students to behave in the same safe and respectful manner as we would in school, and they need to attend their sessions ready to learn and work. If a student's behaviour falls below the acceptable standard, they will be removed from the live lesson and the teacher will contact you later and there may be consequences in school.

We will be speaking to students when they return to get feedback about what has worked well and what could be improved. We would also welcome feedback from parents to hear their thoughts on the live lessons, again letting us know what has worked well and what can be improved. You can e-mail Mr Goddard directly if you would like to give us feedback on how things are working.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

[Link for student survey](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Shadbolt". The letters are cursive and connected.

Mr R Shadbolt  
Headteacher